

REMARKS

This application pertains to novel self-adhesive mouldings (page 17, lines 1-15; claim 1). The mouldings are produced in various ways, such as by molds, compression molds, blow molds and the like. The mouldings are three-dimensional articles of manufacture, such as pads, heart-shaped molds and the like, which are self-adhesive.

Although comprised of pressure-sensitive adhesive materials, the inventive articles are mouldings, not self-adhesive coatings.

Claims 1-11 are pending; claims 9-11 being added to recite specific embodiments of the mouldings.

Claims 1-8 continue to be rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by any one of Husemann et al. (US 2003/0013790A1), Husemann et al. (US 2003/0073767A1) or Husemann et al. (US 6,765,078).

The Examiner insists that Applicants have not provided an explicit definition of what is meant by a mould, and that she therefore reads the term "mould" in its commonest meaning and in light of the examples. The Examiner views the examples as practically describing the same mode as applied by the references.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertions, the meaning of the term "moulding" will be clearly understood those skilled in the art, based on their own knowledge of mouldings,

as well as by the description of mouldings given in the specification and the examples. Applicants' mouldings, as described in the specification and in the examples come nowhere near to the "mode applied by the references".

On page 17, lines 6-29, Applicants describe several techniques for producing the mouldings, such as by injection moulding, compression moulding, blow moulding and roto-moulding. Absolutely no person skilled in the art, having read this, would ever view such mouldings as being in any way the same as or similar to simple films of adhesive, such as those described in the references.

Likewise, Applicants' examples do not describe anything that could be characterized as a film of adhesive, such as those disclosed in the references. In the Examples, Applicants

1. Apply their polymeric product as a coating onto a release paper.
2. The polymeric coating from step 1 above is then applied to both sides of a Saran-primed PET film, which itself had already been coated with the polymeric product, thereby forming a laminate having several layers of the polymeric product.
3. The laminate is then lined with release paper, and pressure sensitive pads are punched out of the laminate.

The Examiner is respectfully challenged to show where anything can be found in any the references that would teach or suggest any such pads, punched out of a laminate of a plurality of adhesive layers, PET film and release paper.

Each of the references pertains to a pressure-sensitive adhesive material, in and of itself, and none of them have anything to do with mouldings, as described above.

At col. 1, paragraph [0002], Husemann et al. (US 2003/0013790A1) mentions pressure sensitive adhesive compositions as being "...applied from the melt as a polymer film to a backing material." Husemann et al. (US 2003/0073767A1) recites the same use at Col. 1, paragraph [0002], and Husemann et al. (US 6,765,078) likewise refers to the adhesive materials disclosed therein as being used as a film on a support (col. 5, lines 57-58).

None of these references disclose or suggest anything about a moulding comprised of self-adhesive materials. Such mouldings are truly novel and unobvious.

In the absence of any disclosure of such mouldings in any of the references cited, Applicants' mouldings cannot possible be seen as anticipated, and the rejection of Claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by any one of Husemann et al. (US 2003/0013790A1), Husemann et al. (US 2003/0073767A1) or Husemann et al. (US 6,765,078) should accordingly be withdrawn.

Claims 1-8 also continue to be rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by WO/0039233.

As in the previous rejection, the adhesives of WO/0039233 are coatings, not

mouldings (page 1, lines 8-9). For the same reasons as given above, this reference cannot possibly anticipate Applicants' *mouldings*. The language at page 25, lines 1-5, specifically mentioned by the Examiner, refers only to a layer of adhesive compressed between two release surfaces and cooled to form an adhesive transfer tape. This is nothing like the shaped articles punched out of the multi-layer laminate described in Applicants' examples. The "release surfaces" described in the reference are not further identified, and are not said to remain as a part of the final product. Thus, those skilled in the art would read the "release surfaces" as constituting some kind of a tool, such as a vice, for forming the adhesive into a sheet, which is then separated from the vice. Nothing in this reference comes even close to teaching or suggesting Applicants' mouldings.

The rejection of Claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by WO/0039233 should accordingly be withdrawn.

In view of the present remarks it is believed that claims 1-11 are now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of said claims by the Examiner is respectfully requested and the allowance thereof is courteously solicited.

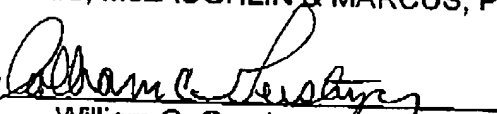
CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

If any extension of time for this response is required, Appellants request that this be considered a petition therefor. Please charge the required petition fee to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

ADDITIONAL FEE

Please charge any insufficiency of fee or credit any excess to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

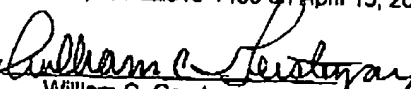
Respectfully submitted,  
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile, no (703) 872-9306, to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 15, 2005.

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Date April 15, 2005